

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicant has amended independent claims 9 and 15 so as to include the limitations of claim 10 (now canceled) and to further clarify the claims language.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 9 - 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Owens (US 5,715,723) and Boyd. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in as much as it may apply to the claims as amended.

Applicant has amended independent claims 9 and 15 to further recite “a tip end of at least a first pressing member, at an initial position, is located on a circle around the central axis corresponding to the periphery of the ring, and tip ends of a plurality of second pressing members, at an initial position, are located outside of the circle, and wherein the cam holes are configured to move the tip ends of the second pressing members toward the circle, and to move, once the tip ends of the second pressing member are located on the circle, all of the tip ends of the pressing members toward the central axis,” and respectfully submits that none of Owens or Boyd describe or suggest, among other things, such features.

As indicated in Applicant’s previous response, which is incorporated herein by reference, a device in accordance with the claim 10 includes a plurality of different types of pressing members. Exemplary embodiments of the pressing members and tips therefor are shown and described at paragraph [0050] and FIGS. 5A – 5B and 6 of the published application below.

FIG.5A, FIG.5B FIG.5C FIG.5D

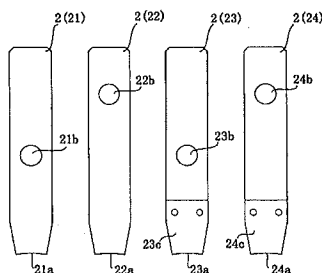
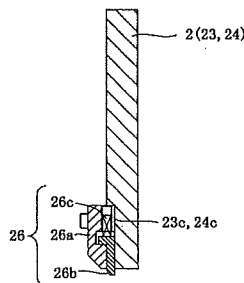


FIG.6



Hence, as shown in FIG. 8, the tips 21a, 22a of pressing member 21 and pressing member 22 are further retracted from the central axis O as compared to the tips 23a, 24a of the pressing members 23 and 24. To describe in further detail, when the pressing members 2 are retracted, positions of the tips 23a and 24a of the pressing members 23 and the pressing member 24 each as particular pressing members are on a reference circle around the central axis O, and positions of the tips 21a, 22a of the pressing member 21 and the pressing member 22 as other pressing members are off outward from the reference circle. This reference circle corresponds to an external periphery of the ring R around the central axis O.” (Emphasis added).

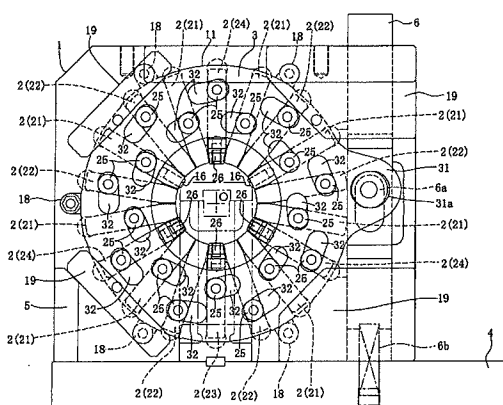


FIG.1

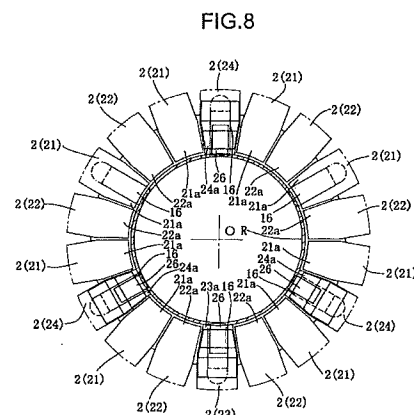


FIG.8

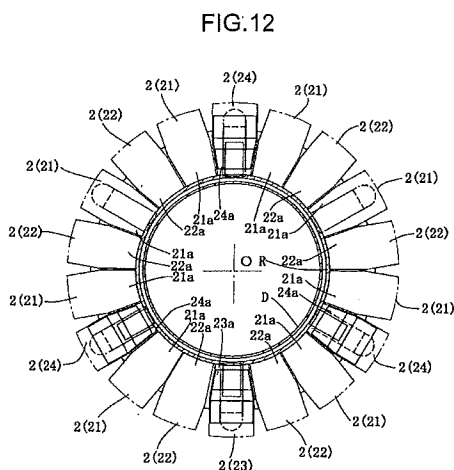


FIG. 12

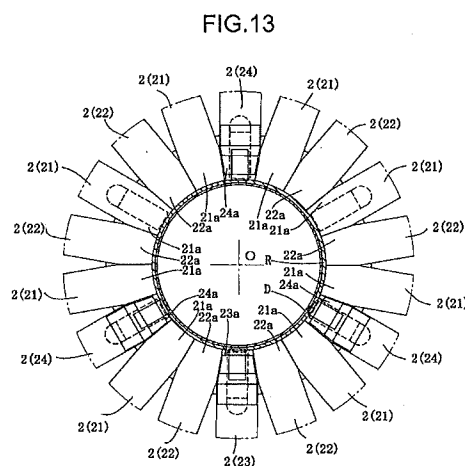


FIG.13

As described at paragraphs [0065] - [0067] of the published application:

[0065] When the ring R is compressed, the pressing members 2 (21, 22, 23, 24) move as described below. Namely, when the rotational body 3 starts rotation from the default state, only the tips 21a, 22a of the first pressing member 21 and the second pressing member 22 at positions off outward from the reference circuit as shown in FIG. 12 move forward toward the central axis O because of forms of the cam holes 32 on the rotational body 3 in which the cam followers 25 of the first pressing member 21 and the second pressing member 22 are engaged. The first pressing member 21 and the second pressing member 22 move until the tips 21a, 22a reach the reference circuit on which the tips 23a, 24a of the third pressing member 23 and the fourth pressing member 24 are present.

[0066] When the tips 21a, 22a, 23a, and 24a of all pressing members 2 (21, 22, 23, 24) are positioned on the reference circuit, if the ring R is deformed when set as described above, the deformation of the ring R is corrected by the tips 21a, 22a of the first pressing member 21 and the second pressing member 22 having moved thereto to the perfect circle.

[0067] When the rotational body 3 further rotates from the state shown in FIG. 12, the tips 21a, 22a, 23a, and 24a of all pressing members 2 (21, 22, 23, 24) move forward toward the central axis O because of the shapes of the cam holes 32 of the rotational body 3 in which the cam followers 25 are engaged as shown in FIG. 13. Because of this configuration, force is applied on the ring R by the tips 21a, 22a, 23a, and 24a by applying a force from the outside of the ring R, and the ring R is compressed. In this case, the force applied to the ring R is homogeneous around the central axis O, so that the uniformly compressed ring R is mounted on the mounting body D previously set and held around the central axis O. (Emphasis added).

None of Owens nor Boyd describe or suggest pressing members having different tips and neither describe or suggest tips that have different movement based on their positional relationship relative to the circle. That is, none of Owens or Boyd teach or suggest that, “a tip end of at least a first pressing member, at an initial position, is located on a circle around the central axis corresponding to the periphery of the ring, and tip ends of a plurality of second pressing members, at an initial position, are located outside of the circle, and wherein the cam holes are configured to move the tip ends of the second pressing members toward the circle, and to move, once the tip ends of the second pressing member are located on the circle, all of the tip ends of the pressing members toward the central axis,”

Accordingly, the combination of Owens and Boyd fails to describe each and every element of claims 9 and 15, as those elements are arranged in the claims to support a rejection under 35 USC § 103.

The rejection of claims 9 and 15, should be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 11 – 14, 16 and new claim 17

The above-described dependent claims include the limitations of nonobvious claims 9 and 15. Additionally, new claim 17 further recites that, “the cam holes are configured to move the tip end of the second pressing member toward the circle while maintaining the tip end of the first pressing member on the circle, and to move, once the tip end of each of the second pressing member is located on the circle, the first and second tip ends toward the central axis,” which features are not described or suggested by the cited art.

Hence, by virtue of their dependency therefrom and/or in view of the fact that they include limitations not otherwise described or suggest by the combination of Owens and Boyd, such claims are also nonobvious.

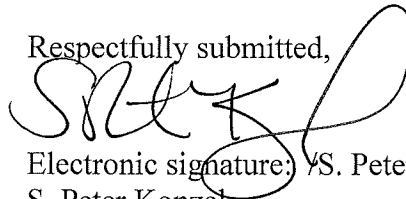
The rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Dated: May 27, 2011
Customer No.: 21874

Respectfully submitted,



Electronic signature: S. Peter Konzel/
S. Peter Konzel

Registration No.: 53,152
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE
LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, Massachusetts 02205
(202) 478-7370
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant